

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

## **Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for manipulating a fluid, comprising:

- i) aspirating said fluid into a first dispensing tip having a an open first end and a an open second end, said open second end being sealable; and
- ii) sealing said open second end of said first dispensing tip containing said fluid to produce a sealed dispensing tip having an open first end and a closed second end and defining a sample reservoir containing said fluid, and  
a step selected from the group consisting of:
- iii) inserting a second dispensing tip through said open first end of said sealed dispensing tip and into said sample reservoir containing said fluid, and aspirating a portion or all of said fluid from said sample reservoir into said second dispensing tip, ~~or~~ and
- iv) withdrawing a diluent or reagent into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said diluent or said reagent through said open first end of said sealed dispensing tip and into said sample reservoir containing said fluid to form a mixture with said fluid.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said second end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by compression.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said second end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by heat.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said second end of said first dispensing tip is sealed with a cap, or by plugging with a material.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps are performed by a chemistry analyser apparatus.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps are manually performed.

18. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 12, wherein after said step of aspirating (step i), and before said step of sealing (step ii), said fluid is displaced from said second end toward said first end of said first dispensing tip.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said step of withdrawing (step iv) is followed by removing said mixture into said second dispensing tip and

dispensing said mixture into said sealed first dispensing tip (step v).

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of removing said mixture (step v) is repeated one or more times.

23-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the method comprises steps i), ii) and iii).

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the method comprises steps i), ii) and iv).

31. (Currently Amended) A method for manipulating a fluid, comprising:

i) aspirating said fluid into a first dispensing tip having a an open first end and a an open second end, said open second end being sealable by compression, and

ii) sealing said open second end of said first dispensing tip containing said fluid by compression to produce a sealed dispensing tip having an open first end and a closed second end and defining a sample reservoir containing said fluid, and

a step selected from the group consisting of:

iii) inserting a second dispensing tip through said open first end of said sealed dispensing tip and into said sample reservoir containing said fluid, and aspirating a portion or all of said fluid from said sample reservoir into said second dispensing tip, ~~or~~ and

iv) withdrawing a diluent or reagent into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said diluent or said reagent through said open first end of said sealed dispensing tip and into said sample reservoir containing said fluid to form a mixture with said fluid.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the method comprises steps i), ii) and iii).

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the method comprises steps i), ii) and iv).

34 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the steps are performed by a chemistry analyser apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the steps are manually performed.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein after said step of aspirating

(step i), and before said step of sealing (step ii), said fluid is displaced from said second end toward said first end of said first dispensing tip.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said step of withdrawing (step iv) is followed by removing said mixture into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said mixture into said sealed first dispensing tip (step v).

38. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 37, wherein said step of removing said mixture (step v) is repeated one or more times.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said second dispensing tip is sized to enter said first dispensing tip and sized to reach said second end of said first dispensing tip.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said second dispensing tip is sized to enter said first dispensing tip and sized to reach said second end of said first dispensing tip.